

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as Senator Kremer has described to you, Senator Maresh brought this bill forth which would have dissolved the watershed conservancy districts in the State of Nebraska. Those were in existence at the time many of you in this Legislature passed that far-reaching legislation creating the Natural Resource Districts, and at that time, there probably should have been a dissolution of the conservancy watershed districts but there was not. At that time, many of you who were in the Legislature at that time said to those people, well, we will give you an amount of time to dissolve those districts. Today as we find it across the state, there are not too many. I think there are only about four conservancy districts and they, excuse me, there are six of them in the State of Nebraska, and they do and can assess a mill levy against property. Many and almost all of the work that is done by the Natural Resource Districts, of course, earlier was done by the conservancy districts. Now the Natural Resource Districts have taken over that work. Now the Natural Resource Districts do use the mill levy across the State of Nebraska and there is a duplication, Mr. President, a duplication of services in many places. What this amendment does is dissolve the conservancy districts in 1980. It is not doing it immediately. Those people have plenty of time to change, to see what is going on in the Natural Resource Districts. They have plenty of time until 1980. In fact, they have two more or one more legislative session, if they should be so distraught by this. Many of the people that I have talked to in southwestern Nebraska feel that there is a duplication of taxation for a duplication of services. So I offer this amendment to you showing to you that when the Natural Resource Districts were passed, these were in existence. They probably should have been dissolved at that time. They were not. Many of you've known people who served on those boards and were reluctant to remove them from that responsible duty at the time but the Natural Resource Districts are providing a service and we are looking at 1980.

PRESIDENT: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, I am in a very peculiar position. I am afraid some of these people that objected to my bill feel that they were double-crossed because I proposed to not go ahead with the dissolution of these districts and, instead, provide a different way of electing the board members. This was my intent, as Senator Mills is proposing, to do away with them. We have sunset laws and I felt there was a duplication, but when I brought this out in the open, there seemed like there was no support. Nobody wrote letters and said that these districts should be dissolved. Instead people appeared at the hearing and said that they should continue to serve in their capacity, the board members. So I am really, I didn't know that Senator Mills had this amendment until just a few minutes ago. Senator Kremer told me that this is going to be brought up. So I would like to see the districts continue, the board members to continue, in an advisory committee position as I proposed in my bill. Senator Mills, would you yield to a question? Would you allow the board members to continue to serve on the NRD board in an advisory capacity or not?

SENATOR MILLS: I have no objection to them serving as an